

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method, in a server data processing system, for generating bids for an auction, the method comprising:

 sorting a plurality of bids for a set of bidding agents by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein bids for the set of bidding agents are sorted using upper limits for the bids for the set of bidding agents and wherein each bidding agent in the set of bidding agents is a computer implemented process executing in the server data processing system to generate bids on behalf of a buyer;

 identifying, in the server data processing system, a first bid from the plurality of bids for which an unallocatable portion of a requested quantity is present;

 selecting, in the server data processing system, a number of bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of bids is higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and wherein each bid in the number of bids has an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid;

 setting, in the server data processing system, a price for the number of bids to form a final equilibrium price; and

 submitting a bid, ~~in the data processing system,~~ to a bid engine in the server data processing system for each of the bidding agents based on the final equilibrium price.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the sorting step, identifying step, selecting step, and setting step are repeated for unallocated items, remaining bids, and remaining unpriced order bids.

5. (Currently Amended): A method, in a server data processing system, for generating bids for bidding agents in an auction, the method comprising:

sorting, in the server data processing system, a plurality of bids by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein each bid includes a quantity, [[and]] wherein the plurality of bids includes order bids, and wherein each order bid is generated by a bidding agent executing in the server data processing system to generate bids on behalf of a buyer;

identifying, in the server data processing system, a first bid requesting a quantity for which an unallocatable portion is present;

selecting, in the server data processing system, a number of order bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of order bids is higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and have an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid; and

setting a price, in a bid engine in the server data processing system, for the number of order bids to form a final equilibrium price.

6. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the number of order bids is a single order bid.

7. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein each bid in the number of order bids is selected from the plurality of bids based on the allocation requirement, upper limit, and a time when each order bid in the number of order bids was received.

8. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein each order bid in the number of order bids is selected from the plurality of bids based on the allocation requirement and an upper limit.

9. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein each bid in the number of order bids is selected based on the allocation requirement and the number of order bids maximize revenue.

10. (Original): The method of claim 5, further comprising:
repeating the selecting and setting steps for any remaining portion of the unallocatable portion and any remaining order bids in the plurality of bids.
11. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the price of the number of order bids is less than a price for the first bid.
12. (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the number of order bids includes a bid accepting a partial allocation of a quantity for the bid.
13. (Previously Presented): A data processing system comprising:
a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a plurality of bids through the communications unit, sort the plurality of bids by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids in which each bid includes a quantity and the plurality of bids includes order bids, identify a first bid within the sorted set of bids having a quantity in which an unallocatable portion is present, select a number of order bids from the plurality of bids in which number of order bids are higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and have an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid, set a price for the number of order bids.
14. (Original): The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus system is a single bus.
15. (Original): The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

16. (Original): The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the processing unit includes a plurality of processors.

17. (Original): The data processing system of claim 13, wherein the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter.

18. (Previously Presented): A data processing system for generating bids for an auction, the data processing system comprising:

 sorting means for sorting a plurality of bids for a set of bidding agents by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein bids for the set of bidding agents are sorted using upper limits for the bids for the set of bidding agents;

 identifying means for identifying a first bid from the plurality of bids for which an unallocatable portion of a requested quantity is present;

 selecting means for selecting a number of bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of bids is higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and wherein each bid in the number of bids has an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid;

 setting means for setting a price for the number of bids to form a final equilibrium price; and

 submitting means for submitting a bid for each of the bidding agents based on the final equilibrium.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented): The data processing system of claim 18, wherein the sorting means, identifying means, selecting means, and setting means are repeated for unallocated items, remaining bids, and remaining unpriced order bids.

22. (Previously Presented): A data processing system for generating bids for bidding agents in an auction, the data processing system comprising:

 sorting means for sorting a plurality of bids by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein each bid includes a quantity and wherein the plurality of bids includes order bids;

 identifying means for identifying a first bid requesting a quantity in which an unallocatable portion is present;

 selecting means for selecting a number of order bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of order bids are higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and have an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid; and

 setting means for setting a price for the number of order bids.

23. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the number of order bids is a single order bid.

24. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein each bid in the number of order bids is selected from the plurality of bids based on the allocation requirement, upper limit, and a time when each order bid in the number of order bids was received.

25. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein each order bid in the number of order bids is selected from the plurality of bids based on the allocation requirement and an upper limit.

26. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein each bid in the number of order bids is selected based on the allocation requirement and the number of order bids maximize revenue.

27. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22 further comprising:

 repeating means for repeating initiation of the selecting means and setting means

for any remaining portion of the unallocatable portion and any remaining order bids in the plurality of bids.

28. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the price of the number of order bids is less than a price for the first bid.

29. (Original): The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the number of order bids includes a bid accepting a partial allocation of a quantity for the bid.

30. (Previously Presented): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for generating bids for an auction, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for sorting a plurality of bids for a set of bidding agents by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein bids for the set of bidding agents are sorted using upper limits for the bids for the set of bidding agents;

second instructions for identifying a first bid from the plurality of bids for which an unallocatable portion of a requested quantity is present;

third instructions for selecting a number of bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of bids is higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and wherein each bid in the number of bids has an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid;

fourth instructions for setting a price for the number of bids to form a final equilibrium price; and

fifth instructions for submitting a bid for each of the bidding agents based on the final equilibrium.

31. (Previously Presented): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for generating bids for bidding agents in an auction, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for sorting a plurality of bids by decreasing bid amount to form a sorted set of bids, wherein each bid includes a quantity and wherein the plurality of bids includes order bids;

second instructions for identifying a first bid requesting a quantity for which an unallocatable portion is present;

third instructions for selecting a number of order bids from the plurality of bids, wherein the number of order bids are higher in the sorted set of bids than the first bid and have an allocation requirement less than the unallocatable portion of the first bid; and

fourth instructions for setting a price for the number of order bids.